metro®
WEEKEND BOSTON
December 7-9, 2012

sports

Red Sox filling out their roster

Still plenty of work to be done with pitching staff, shortstop position {page 22}

music

Lockhart on 45 holiday concerts

The Boston Pops conductor has only just begun his yearly marathon of carols {page 09}

Review: 'Playing for Keeps' {page 16}

HOLIDAY MUSIC: (ALMOST) ALL IS BRIGHT

There are a lot of great new yuletide tunes out there this season But there are also a few that could really stink up your stocking if you're not careful {page 08}

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1

By the numbers

$253M

State transportation officials are poised in early 2013 to begin taking bids for the rehabilitation of the Longfellow Bridge, a project that will move it off the "structurally deficient" list, add extra space for pedestrians and permanently reduce the number of auto lanes on the Boston-to-Cambridge from two to one. Built in 1907, the bridge that carries Red Line trains over the Charles River is almost set for a $253 million reconstruction. The project should be complete by fall 2016. SHNS

Today's local tweet

"Boston traffic = cry. #boston"

@CVR_GSD, WHO DISCOVERED THAT THE TRAFFIC IN BOSTON CAN OFTENTIMES LEAD TO TEARS

In the news

Wine auction bill uncorked

MASSACHUSETTS. Massachusetts charities that auction off wine during events will be allowed to continue that practice under legislation that advanced in the House on Thursday.

Since 1997, charities have been able to use temporary licenses to auction off wine, but the law allowing those licenses is scheduled to sunset on Jan. 1. Under the bill, it would be extended until Jan. 1, 2018. SHNS

▶ Warren

Newton mayor gets police protection

NEWTON. Newton Mayor Setti Warren has received additional police protection recently.

Warren was seen this week leaving a night meeting with a police officer, according to the Globe.

Newton police confirmed that "due to concerns for the mayor's personal safety," they are increasing security.

Police said there has been no specific threat, but that they are being proactive because of a recent situation. GLOBE

Pit bull death investigated

GLOUCESTER. Police in Gloucester are determining whether criminal charges will be filed after a dead pit bull was found on the side of a road.

Police said the dog was found on the roadway Tuesday with a "significant injury across the stomach," according to the Cape Ann Beacon.

The dog had been dead for a while, according to police. Police said they have suspects and are investigating. METRO

District attorney says man raped, abused 13 children

Wakefield man indicted on more than 100 counts related to sex abuse
Victims ranged from 8 days old to 3 years Man's wife also indicted

A Wakefield man whose wife operated a child care center was indicted on more than 100 counts related to his alleged sexual abuse of children as young as eight days old.

John Burbine, 49, was indicted on charges including aggravated forcible rape of a child, posing a child in a state of nudity and possession of child pornography, the Middlesex District Attorney's Office announced Thursday.

Burbine allegedly raped and sexually assaulted boys and girls that were in his care. Many of the victims, who range in age from eight days old to 3½ years old, were abused multiple times over several months or years, authorities said.

Thirteen infants and children were abused from August 2010 through August 2012, authorities said.

▶ John Burbine

Wife also indicted

Leone's office said Burbine's wife, 46-year-old Marian, was also indicted on charges of reckless endangerment of a child and operating an unlicensed day care business.

The Waterfall Education Center that she operated was how Burbine gained access to many of his victims, authorities said.

Quoted

"This is among the most troubling and disturbing cases of child abuse ever prosecuted in Middlesex County. Children are our most vulnerable victims, and we will continue to prosecute to the fullest extent those who harm or exploit them."
LEONE

"This is among the most troubling and disturbing cases of child abuse ever prosecuted in Middlesex County," Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone said in a statement. "Children are our most vulnerable victims, and we will continue to prosecute to the fullest extent those who harm or exploit them."

Authorities also said that Burbine had images and videos of the children he abused posed in states of nudity and engaged in sexual acts.

The alleged abuse took place in the victims' homes and communities, and the victims are from Stoneham, Medford, Newton, Reading, Melrose, Woburn and Waltham.

Burbine will be arraigned next week.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
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Stonehill College gets partial victory in roommate sex case after claim rejected

Stonehill College recently earned a partial victory in federal court over a lawsuit brought by a former student who had issues with her roommate's sex life.

Judge Rya Zobel dismissed part of the lawsuit brought by Lindsay Blankmeyer.

Blankmeyer, a New York native, filed the lawsuit earlier this year and claimed that the Easton school violated her rights under the Fair Housing Act when she requested a room change because of the "toxic environment" created by her roommate who constantly had sex while Blankmeyer was in the room. Blankmeyer said she suffers from depression and attention deficit disorder.

Zobel rejected Blankmeyer's claim that Stonehill did not engage her in a process to find her a reasonable accommodation or that it would have treated her differently if she had a physical disability.

"Specifically, she has not provided any facts showing that Stonehill did or would treat a physically disabled person differently," Zobel wrote in the Nov. 2 ruling.

Zobel did allow Blankmeyer's claim that Stonehill did not provide a reasonable accommodation.

Blankmeyer said in her lawsuit that she was doing well until her senior year when she began living with a new roommate who is identified only as Laura in the lawsuit.

"More disturbingly, Laura would have sex with her boyfriend while Lindsay was trying to sleep just a few feet away," according to the complaint. "Laura would also engage in sexually inappropriate video chatting when Lindsay was in the room." METRO/MN

FLIKR/SCRUFFYNERF

▶ Stonehill College in Eason, Mass.

▶ Blankmeyer

Quoted: The complaint

"More disturbingly, Laura would have sex with her boyfriend while Lindsay was trying to sleep just a few feet away. Laura would also engage in sexually inappropriate video chatting when Lindsay was in the room."

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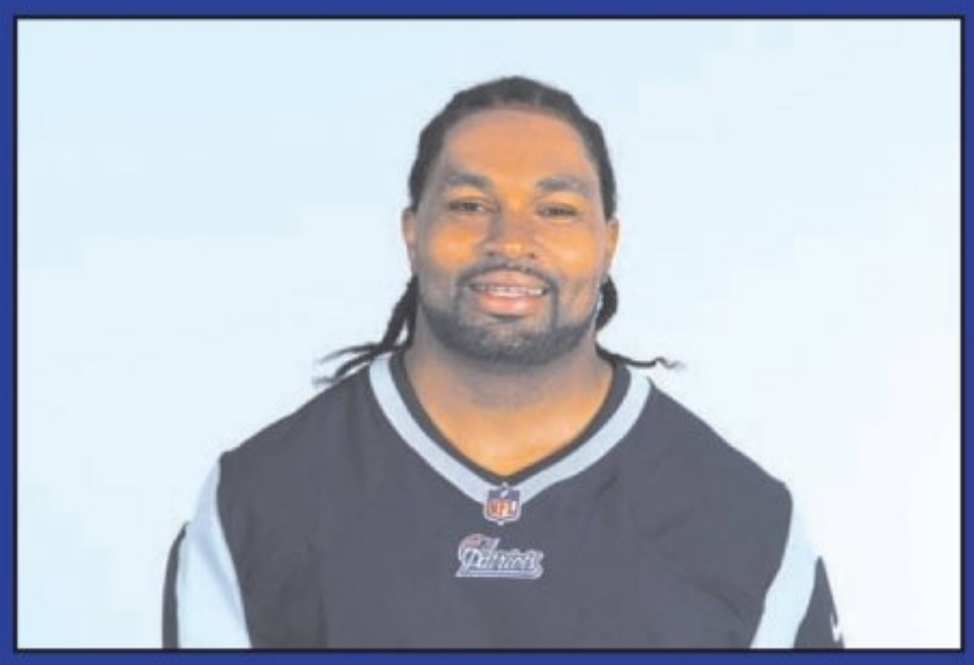

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Boston University student struck by semi, killed in Allston cycling accident

Accident is the fifth Boston cyclist death this year ◗ Truck driver not cited Thursday ◗ Tragedy comes hours before hearing to make city safer for biking

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ The accident closed Commonwealth Avenue and tied up traffic for hours Thursday morning.

A 23-year-old Boston University graduate student was killed Thursday morning when he collided with a 16-wheel tractor-trailer while riding his bike on Commonwealth Avenue near the Boston University campus, bringing the number of bicyclist fatalities this year up to five.

Christopher Weigl, a photojournalism student, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The crash occurred just after 8:30 a.m. near Commonwealth Avenue and St. Paul Street, according to police. Witnesses told BU Today that Weigl and the truck were both traveling east on Comm. Ave. and collided when the truck made a wide right turn onto St. Paul Street.

The driver of the tractor-trailer stopped and made himself known to officers, police said.

No citations were issued as of Thursday, police said.

Just three hours after the crash, dozens of bicyclists trickled into City Hall Plaza, helmets and water bottles in hand. As they settled into their seats, chatter quickly grew about the morning's deadly accident – not surprising considering they were there to hear city officials and cycling advocates talk about making the Hub a safer place to bike.

Patrick Kelleher-Calnan, an avid Boston bicyclist and member of the Boston Cyclist Union, said he happened to pass by the tragic scene earlier that day.

"We've seen a lot of issues on Comm. Ave., a lot of issues with large vehicles and trucks that definitely have challenges on urban streets that are pedestrian and cycle heavy," he said.

When asked whether Thursday's deadly accident may discourage people from riding a bike, he said, "Unfortunately, it probably does. ... People are very afraid sometimes of riding on urban streets."

Once the hearing got going, city officials had no problem admitting that Boston has a long way to go in terms of improving conditions for bicyclists.

"Personally, I'm scared to get on a bike in downtown Boston," City Councilor Salvatore LaMattina said.

Before the hearing, City Councilor Felix G. Arroyo biked from his Jamaica Plain home to City Hall in an effort to raise awareness about bicycle safety. Of cycling in Boston, Arroyo said, "You have to almost fight the cars to get into that dedicated lane that is for cyclists."

The Boston Public Health Commission reported that only 23 percent of the city's cyclists wear helmets, despite findings that show helmet use reduces brain injury by 88 percent.

City Councilor Matt O'Malley said the public should not focus blame on cyclists who chose not to wear helmets. "It's not just about the helmets," he said. "It's not about blaming the victims."

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
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Quoted

"We are very concerned about the dangers faced by members of our community who must navigate the streets on and near our campus, especially bicyclists and pedestrians. As we identify ways in which education and changes in practice can reduce risks, we will take all necessary and possible steps to do so."

BOSTON UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT ROBERT A. BROWN, ON WEIGL'S DEATH

Second death

Weigl is the second Boston University cyclist to die in a collision with a vehicle in less than a month.

- On Nov. 12, Chung-Wei Yang was killed when he was struck by a number 57 MBTA bus at the intersection of Harvard Avenue and Brighton Avenue in Allston.
- In September, a female cyclist was killed by a tractor-trailer in South Boston.

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US household wealth reaches 2007's high

The net wealth of U.S. households rose in the third quarter to its highest since late 2007, providing a hopeful sign for future consumer spending.

Net financial wealth grew $1.72 trillion to $64.77 trillion, the Federal Reserve said on Thursday.

That left household wealth $1.2 trillion short of where it stood in the fourth quarter of 2007, just as the economy was sinking into a severe recession. Wealth peaked at $67.3 trillion in the third quarter of that year.

Rising home prices helped drive the increase in the latest quarter. The value of real estate owned by households rose about $300 billion, the Fed said. Stock holdings climbed by about $520 billion.

Increases in wealth could make consumers feel more comfortable spending their money. Many economists think consumers spend a few cents of every dollar they gain.

▶ A housing bubble led household debt to soar in the first half of the last decade, peaking as a share of families' income in 2007.

GETTY IMAGES

The data, part of the Fed's quarterly Flow of Funds report, also showed Americans continued their four-year effort to shed debt.

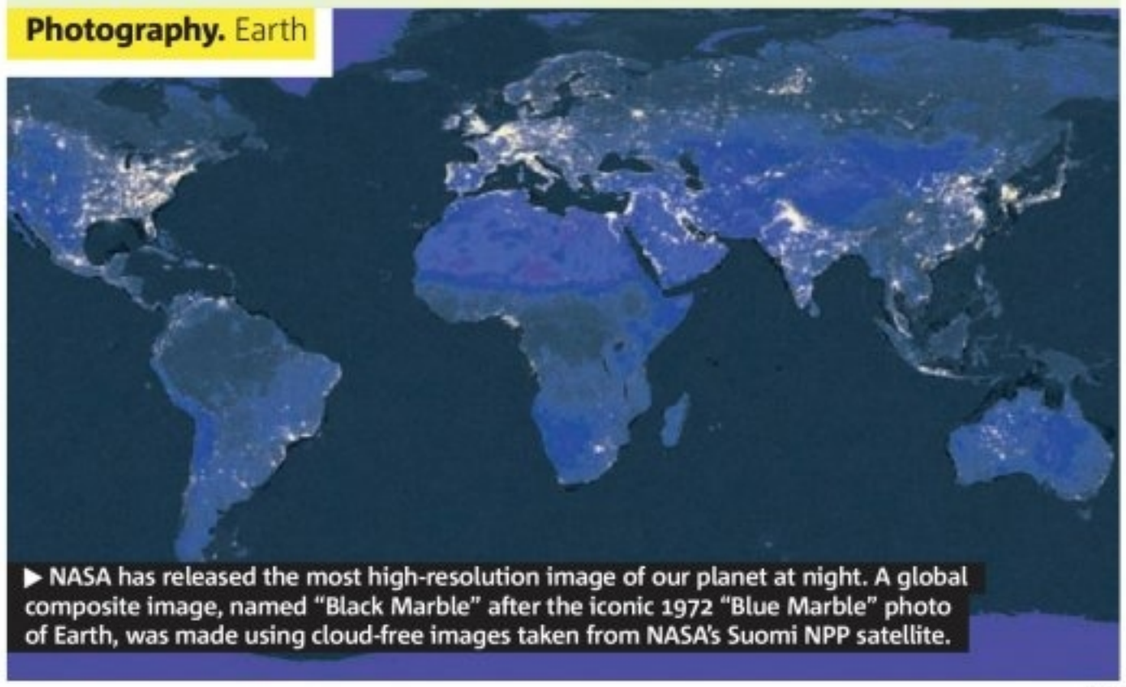
Households cut debt at a 2 percent annual rate in the third quarter, the steepest drop since the second quarter of 2011.

Household debt fell $65.5 billion to $12.87 trillion, reversing a small gain logged over the prior three quarters — a possible sign that households still feel they need to cut debt. **REUTERS**

$300B

The value of real estate owned by households rose about $300 billion last quarter, the Fed said.

Photography. Earth



▶ NASA has released the most high-resolution image of our planet at night. A global composite image, named "Black Marble" after the iconic 1972 "Blue Marble" photo of Earth, was made using cloud-free images taken from NASA's Suomi NPP satellite.

NASA

In the news

Therapist declined confinement for Aurora shooter

DENVER. A psychiatrist who treated accused Colorado theater gunman James Holmes rejected a law enforcement offer to involuntarily confine him for 72 hours after he told her six weeks before the shooting that he fantasized about killing "a lot of people," the Denver Post reported yesterday.

Citing an unnamed source, the newspaper said that Holmes made the remark to his therapist, Lynne Fenton, on June 11. But when a University of Colorado police officer asked whether to detain Holmes on a psychiatric hold, Fenton said no. **REUTERS**

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Apple shares continue to fall

GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Samsung Galaxy tablet has given the iPad competition.

Apple's market capitalization fell below $500 billion on Thursday as shares of the world's most valuable listed company continued to slide after suffering its worst one-day decline in nearly four years.

Shares of Apple Inc. fell to as low as $518.63 on Thursday, declining nearly 10 percent for the week. But for the year, the stock is still up more than 30 percent. At its peak in September the stock was worth $705.07.

Earlier in the day, research firm IDC said Apple's rank in China's smartphone market, which is set to become the world's largest this year, fell to No.6 in the third quarter as it faced tough competition from Chinese brands.

IDC's announcement comes a day after Apple's shares fell more than 6 percent on the Nasdaq, logging its biggest single-day loss in four years and losing $35 billion of its value, on concerns about rivals gaining ground in the mobile devices market.

Apple's shares, once among the most desirable of portfolio holdings, have headed steadily lower since September on growing uncertainty about the company's ability to fend off unprecedented competition. This year saw a surge in sales of Amazon's cheaper Kindle Fire and Microsoft's first foray into the tablet market with its Surface.

Meanwhile, Samsung continues to chip away at the iPad's dominance with its Galaxy line.

The assault on Apple's consumer-electronics home turf presents a stiff challenge for CEO Tim Cook, who was elevated shortly before the death of Steve Jobs and is now charged with keeping the world's largest technology company humming. **REUTERS**

$500B

Apple's market capitalization fell below $500 billion on Thursday

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▶ All the gifts purchased will be sent directly to Metro's office. It's the third year of Metro Magic, where we ask our readers to go online to buy toys for underprivileged children. **METRO**

metro MAGIC

In the news

Sandy repairs to cost billions, Congress told

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Queens, N.Y.

WASHINGTON. Billions of dollars are needed to strengthen and repair rail and other transportation networks in the U.S. Northeast in the aftermath of savage Superstorm Sandy, lawmakers and transportation officials said on Thursday.

"Estimates of the damage have reached more than $7 billion. Across the region, train tunnels, stations, and rail yards were flooded, rail tracks were damaged and critical equipment was ruined," Sen. Frank Lautenberg, a New Jersey Democrat, said at a Senate subcommittee hearing on storm damage.

Hundreds of millions of gallon of salt water flooded the city's subway system, which is more than 100 years old, Joseph Lhota, chairman of New York's Metropolitan Transit Authority, told the panel.

"Our preliminary estimates total nearly $5 billion in damages, and this figure could possibly rise," Lhota said.

It also represents just the amount that is needed to get the subway back to where it was before the storm, Lhota said, arguing it was "critical" to make additional investments to protect the system from future storms.

"This is a national issue" because the New York area accounts for about 11 percent of U.S. gross domestic product and grinds to a halt without the MTA, Lhota said. **REUTERS**

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2

WEEKEND

Do you hear what we hear?

As usual, this year's holiday releases are a mixed bag Definitely take a ride on a 'Christmas Unicorn,' but stay away from the 'Grease' duo Metro helps you sort the naughty from the nice

Grinch review

'This Christmas'

John Travolta and Olivia Newton John

If this collection came out in 1980 then *maybe* there would be a reason for it to exist, but in 2012 there's no need for these 13 tracks, most of which are standards, with the exception of an original that's being touted as a sequel to "You're The One That I Want." The song is called, "I Think You Might Like It." Spoiler alert: You won't. Sure, they had chemistry in "Grease," but that was in 1978. The forced smiles while sipping cocoa on the cover shows what kind of chemistry they have now. We don't like to be Grinch-y, but this is the sonic equivalent of reindeer poop.

'A Different Kind of Christmas'

Various artists

Naughty: You're probably not familiar with many of the artists on these 23 tracks. Audio Stepchild? Renzo Charlez? Freshwadda Brooks? Have all of these great hip-hop artists been hiding on the North Pole until now?
Nice: This comp comes courtesy of Hoopla Worldwide/LRT/ INgrooves Fontana, all imprints we had also never heard of before now. But some of the participants have affiliations with Parliament Funkadelic and Nappy Roots. The beats here mostly have a G-Funk feel with little samples of carols thrown in and the rhymes are super positive. Check out 1st Blood and Buffalo Stille's "Some Kentucky Bourbon on Christmas Eve" and Da Product and J Bill's "It Seems Like We Forgot" for some of the most festive holiday hip-hop since Run DMC's "Christmas in Hollis."

'Isn't This World Enough??'

Various Artists

Naughty: The problem with this post-record industry climate is that there aren't enough Scroogey label CEOs to say, "Yer holiday song stinks!" Therefore, this 14-song comp from the Nettwerk Music Group has a few stinkers from Ash Koley and Jay Brannan. Bah humbug!
Nice: The title track, by the Scottish six-piece Admiral Fallow might not be the most obvious holiday song (sample lyric: "You don't need to hang your hat on belief in bumper stickers") but there's something classic about it that makes it malleable, the way that "Put a Little Love In Your Heart" kind of became a holiday staple after it was used in "Scrooged." Also worth noting: This comp kicks off with a rockin' Fun. tune!

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Admiral Fallow

DENNY RENSHAW

▶ Sufjan Stevens brings his Christmas sing-along to Royale on Dec. 20. Visit www.bowerybostonn.com for more info.

'Silver & Gold: Songs for Christmas, Vols. 6-10'

Sufjan Stevens

Naughty: Is Sufjan Stevens trying to take up *all* our free time this season? Sure, this is a gorgeous collection of 58 holiday-ish tracks (we say "ish" because how is Prince's "Alphabet Street" a holiday song?) But keep in mind that Stevens recorded these songs over six years. Listeners may want to pace themselves too.
Nice: There are a few songs on here that are the sonic equivalent of sugar plums dancing in your head. Draw the curtains, plug in your tree and zone out to the beautifully textured 10-minute plus opuses "Christmas Unicorn" and "The Child with the Star on His Head."

'Cheers, It's Christmas'

Blake Shelton

Naughty: His role as a coach on "The Voice" has earned Blake Shelton a new base of fans who wouldn't ordinarily like his brand of country music. That said, if you don't ordinarily like his brand of country music, you won't like this album.
Nice: Shelton is such a likable personality that this is highly tolerable stuff. Plus, he handpicked some of the most likable sidekicks to guide his sleigh, like Reba, Kelly Clarkson, his wife Miranda Lambert and the king of palatable Christmas charisma, Michael Buble, who co-wrote one of the songs here. Basically, the cover pic of Shelton in front of the fireplace says it all: It's old-fashioned, steeped in tradition, comfortable and not exactly cool.

Best of the rest

'Holidays Rule' *Various*
Naughty: Speaking of compilations that start with a song by Fun., the "We Are Young" trio have spread themselves too thin for the holidays. With their track, they take a "Sleigh Ride" down Broadway and make an ill-advised turn into '80s territory. Rufus Wainwright and Sharon Van Etten also deserve a lump of coal for their empty version of "Baby, It's Cold Outside."
Nice: This one delivers the most bang for your buck. The Shins run McCartney's "Wonderful Christmastime" through a Beach Boys filter and turn it into something great. McCartney himself is on here too. Other great performances include Calexico, Eleanor Friedberger and Andrew Bird.

'Merry Christmas, Baby' *Rod Stewart*
Naughty: Stewart exhumes the voice of Ella Fitzgerald for a duet of "What Are You Doing New Year's Eve"? Let's just hope there is no "live" performance, a la Virtual 2Pac.
Nice: Rod's light rock swing is actually contagious, and you may find yourself saying, "Hey, play that again!" about the original song that Stewart co-wrote, "Red-Suited Super Man." Then you'll realize what you just said and lie that you were just kidding. Cee-Lo, Mary J. Blige, Buble and Trombone Shorty also turn in notable cameos.

'Sounds of the Holidays Vol. One' *The Polyphonic Spree*
Naughty: The Polyphonic Spree are known for featuring upward of 20 members, but leader Tim DeLaughter doesn't quite maximize the potential of all of his choral worker elves here.
Nice: Though many of these 13 tracks are familiar songs, the Spree drastically reimagine many of them to great effect. "Silver Bells," featuring School of the Seven Bells, is a dreamy seven-minute symphony that captures the exhausting wonder of the season through the sleepy eyes of a child.

JIM DYSON/REDFERNS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Tim DeLaughter preaches to the choir.

PAT HEALY
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Interview: Keith Lockhart

The Pops: Jingling, ring-ting-tingling too

Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart took a few very rare free minutes to speak with us the week after Thanksgiving, before beginning a blizzard of holiday concerts this month.

GAIL OSRIN/WIREIMAGE

▶ In Lockhart's flurry of holiday activity, he always makes sure to pay a visit to Children's Hospital. Visit www.bso.org to see the full schedule of Pops concerts this season.

Hi Keith, what are you up to?
Just the normal craziness. It's a couple weeks before everything hits, and the calm before the storm, so I'm trying to see my little kids as much as I can before I don't see them for three weeks.
Right. You're performing 37 holiday concerts this month!
There are 37 in [Symphony Hall], 45 altogether, so a lot of Christmas magic between Dec. 1 and Dec. 24.
I can't tell if there's a hint of sarcasm in the way you say "a lot of Christmas magic." I'd imagine there's at least a fear of getting so overloaded with said Christmas magic that you become a little Scroogey ...
Well, there is, but the good thing about them is that the audience is wonderfully into these. It's the most enthusiastic audiences we ever have. With so many kids in the audience, you'd have to get really Scroogey not to get swept up in it. I think for all of the performers that's what makes it fun — or even by the end of the thing, bearable — because everybody is having an amazing time and you're part of the reason for that.
Does anything change as far as arrangement from year-to-year with these Christmas songs?
Yes, a lot changes. For us it's always a balancing act when you do a holiday concert, because if someone comes to a holiday concert and hears things they didn't know, they'd want their money back. Because it's such a timeless tradition. ... But then we can't do the same concert every year. That doesn't work either. It's this balancing act between the familiar and the traditional, looking at things in a new way, and we're really serious about the way we do that and we try to do it right. A lot of people have made this their go-to holiday tradition, and we have people who have been coming for 21-plus years.
What about your own holiday traditions? What do you guys do in the Lockhart household?
Well, we tend to keep our Christmas pretty small and pretty familial. Mostly because the last couple of years I haven't been able to consider going anywhere else until 5 o'clock on Dec. 24. This year we're having a quiet Christmas with my family, and my wife's sister and her son, and so I think it's going to be some church and some presents, and Christmas carols with the piano and a fireplace.
So you'll play the piano?
I will!
And will you play some of the songs you've been playing at least 45 times in the past month?
Probably so, but it's for the kids!

PAT HEALY

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TV watch list

'The American Giving Awards'

AWARDS. Joel McHale hosts this twist on awards shows: Instead of drooling over each other, stars get in the holiday spirit and pay tribute to local leaders and charities. **Saturday, 8 p.m., NBC**

'White House Christmas 2012'

SPECIAL. Think you untangled a lot of lights this year? This tour of the White House gives a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to deck the first family's halls. **Saturday, 8 p.m., HGTV**

MONICA WEYMOUTH

Marina: 'I'm not like them'

The Diamonds singer on trying to be a pop star and getting discouraging phone calls from her manager

Upon releasing her 2010 debut, it was apparent to anyone paying attention that Marina Diamandis, aka Marina and the Diamonds, was a bona fide pop star in the making. She had the acrobatic voice, indelible hooks and a crush-worthy look (more on that in a minute), but there was a knowingness about the idea of pop stardom embedded in her lyrics that made her appealing to fans who take their pop with a dash of irony. On her recent release, "Electra Heart," the Welsh singer has doubled-down on reaching for the stars, enlisting hit-makers like Diplo and Dr. Luke.

It's Dr. Luke's effort on first single, "How to be a Heartbreaker" that has brought on Katy Perry comparisons, albeit with qualifiers like "edgier."

Is that a compliment or an insult? "It's neither," says Diamandis. "It's just not true. The thing is, with Dr. Luke, his style is so cemented, I think most people who work with him get his sound. Katy was his first huge success, so it's obvious I'm compared to her. I'm just like, 'Oh whatever.'"

Also getting a big whatever was her label's decision in September to delay the release of the "Heartbreaker" video because, well, they didn't think she looked attractive enough.

She got a call from her manager saying the label didn't like it, she explains: "'They think you need some beauty work,' he said. 'I said, 'I don't care if they think I'm ugly or not, they need to give me a budget if they want me to look Botoxed within an inch of my life.'"

Not that she has a problem with that, she says. "I really don't mind. Everything on the album has been in the spirit of that plastic pop element."

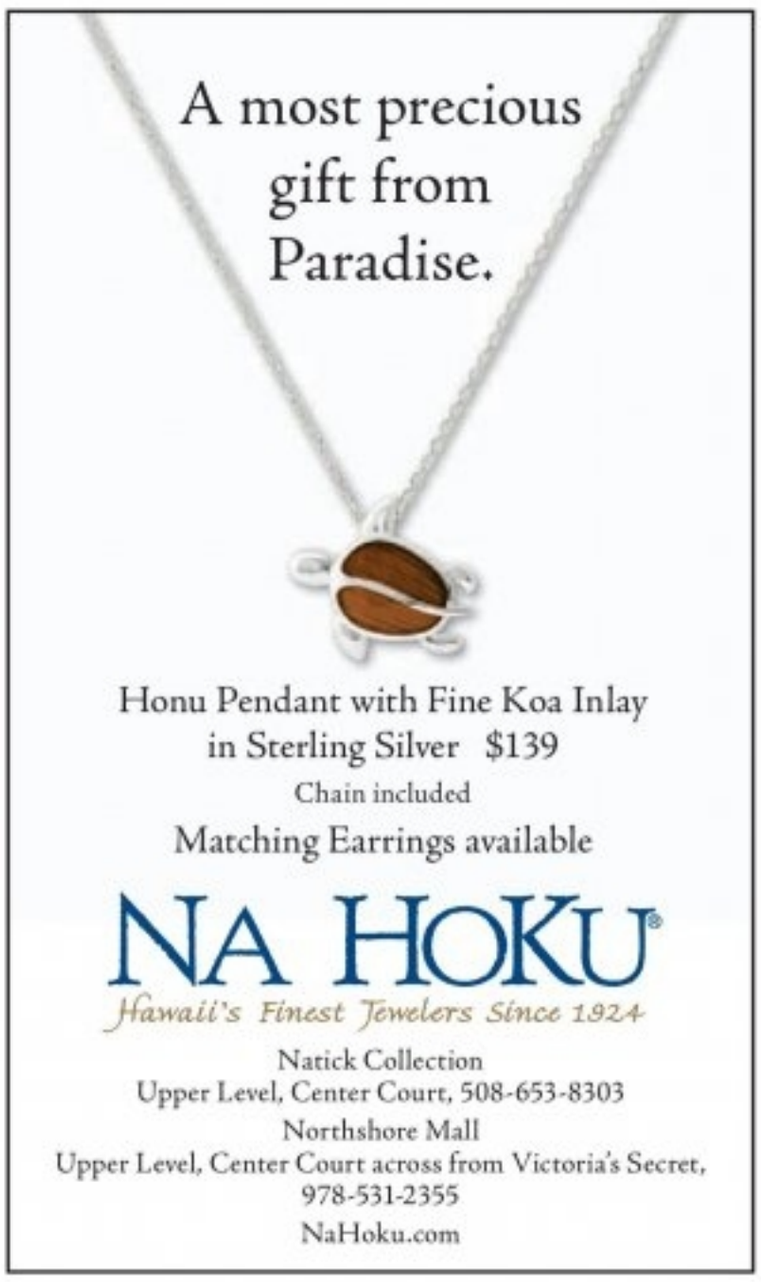
CASPAR BALSLEY

▶ Marina and the Diamonds play the House of Blues on Saturday. For more info, visit www.livenation.com

A different sort of pop star

"Do you know the funny thing? I really wanted to be one," says Diamandis of being a pop star. "Now, after this album, even though it's obviously a pop album, a concerted effort and a very calculated move ... I'm still not one. I'm not like them, not in a horrible way, not like Katy or Rihanna or any of those big pop females."

LUKE O'NEIL
luke.oneil@metro.us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CHRISTOPHER WILSON

▶ Band of Horses support their drummer, Creighton Barrett, center, and his pursuit of small waves.

Running on Band of Horses-power

After a sprawling opus like 2011's "Infinite Arms," Band of Horses wanted to try a more simple approach. So for the South Carolina-based rockers' fourth album, "Mirage Rock," they cut out all the fuss of digital recording and brought in seasoned rock vet Glyn Johns to produce.

"Because the last album was so painful, in a way," starts singer Ben Bridwell, before clarifying, "well, painfully long at least, it made sense to try and do something simple."

Bridwell now has a seasoned crew behind him, because this lineup solidified before recording "Infinite Arms." The result is a dusky country-rock set buoyed by airtight vocal harmonies, and the process of recording went more quickly than its predecessor.

"Once Glyn seemed interested, well, his method of recording strictly analog and live just seemed to take a lot of the guess work out of things."

If you go

Band of Horses
With Jason Lytle
Sunday, 8 p.m.
House of Blues
15 Lansdowne St., Boston.
$32.50-$45, all ages,
800-745-3000
www.livenation.com

Having a reputation for creating rock landmarks didn't hurt: Johns has produced records for the Rolling Stones, the Who and the Eagles.

"His incredible pedigree, the incredible albums that he's produced, that was obviously really enticing," Bridwell agrees. "But the method itself seemed like an obvious direction to go in after the last one was so overthought. It was nice to have an extra set of ears and also just a completely different perspective, him coming from a different era of music in general."

It's electric ... or it's not

Band of Horses pulls double-duty in New York, playing an acoustic show and an electric one, both on the same day.

"We've gotten used to doing promo stuff where we go to a record store and play and then go do a proper show," says Bridwell. "We're used to packing it in. But I'm not sure that we have ever done two proper shows like this. The original idea was to try and make something interesting happen in New York. Because we have embraced our acoustic side in promos, it's a good way to flip the script."

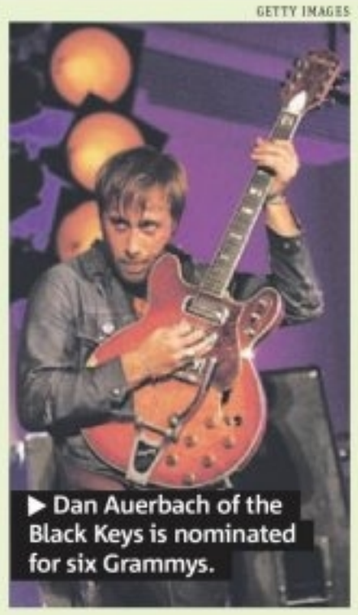
LINDA LABAN
linda.laban@metro.us

In the news

Male artists lead 2013 Grammy nominations

Male artists led the nominations announced on Wednesday for the 2013 Grammys, as Fun., Frank Ocean, Mumford & Sons, Jay-Z, Kanye West and Dan Auerbach from the Black Keys landed six nods each for music's biggest awards.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Dan Auerbach of the Black Keys is nominated for six Grammys.

The nominations for New York-based indie-pop band Fun. — made up of Nate Ruess, Andrew Dost and Jack Antonoff — included the four main categories for record, song and album of the year, and best new artist.

Fun. said it felt good to be recognized and "took pride" in its live performances.

"Tonight, all I wanted to do was get up and really give it our all. ... Receiving the nomination is amazing and a culmination of hard work the three of us have put into this band," lead singer Ruess told reporters backstage.

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THE ART OF FLIGHT 3D (PG-13) **Fri** 7:00, 9:00.C INDEPENDENT;RealD 3D
CLOUD ATLAS (R) 11:00. Digital Presentation
THE COLLECTION (R) **Fri** 11:10, 1:40, 4:05, 6:25, 9:00, 11:15. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 12:45-6:00-11:30. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:10-1:40-4:05-6:25-9:00. Digital Presentation
END OF WATCH (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:15. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:00. Digital Presentation
FLIGHT (R) **Fri** 12:00, 3:05, 6:20, 9:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sat** 2:55-8:20. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 12:00-3:05-6:20-9:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
HITCHCOCK (PG-13) 12:05, 2:30, 5:20, 8:20, 10:55.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:00, 1:35, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:25. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:00-1:35-4:00-6:30-9:00. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI (PG) 11:15, 2:05, 5:05, 8:05, 11:00. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) **Fri** 12:45, 3:35, 6:35, 9:40. RealD 3D; **Sat** 12:30-3:30-6:35-10:00. RealD 3D; **Sun** 12:30-3:30-6:35-9:40. RealD 3D
LINCOLN (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:40, 3:20, 4:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:30. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:40-3:20-4:30-7:00-7:45-10:30. Digital Presentation
THE LORD OF THE RINGS TRILOGY (PG-13) **Sat** 10:00. Digital Presentation
PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 11:45, 2:20, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30. Digital Presentation
RED DAWN (PG-13) 10:30, 12:45, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:50. Digital Projection
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS 3D (PG) **Fri** 11:15, 2:00, 4:30, 6:50, 9:30. RealD 3D; **Sat** 11:15-2:00-4:30-6:50-9:30-11:55. RealD 3D; **Sun** 11:15-2:00-4:30-6:50-9:30. RealD 3D
THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (R) **Sat** 11:59. Digital Presentation
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) 12:20, 3:15, 6:05, 9:10. Digital Presentation
SKYFALL (PG-13) **Fri** 10:40, 11:30, 1:50, 2:55, 5:00, 8:30. Digital Presentation; **Sat** and **Sun** 10:40-11:30-1:50-2:55-5:00-6:10-8:30-9:25. Digital Presentation
SKYFALL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 12:15, 3:45, 7:15, 10:40. Digital Presentation;IMAX
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) 10:35, 1:30, 4:25, 7:30, 10:25. Digital Presentation
WRECK-IT RALPH IN 3D (PG) **Fri** 10:35, 1:15, 4:10, 7:25, 10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; **Sat** 10:35-1:15-4:10-7:25-10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; **Sun** 10:35-1:15-4:10-7:25-10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D

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FLIGHT (R) **Fri** 3:25, 10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service; **Sat** 10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service; **Sun** 3:25-10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) **Fri** 12:10, 3:55, 7:40, 10:25. CC-Closed Captions; **Sat** 7:40-10:25. CC-Closed Captions; **Sun** 12:10-3:55-7:40-10:25. CC-Closed Captions
LIFE OF PI (PG) 3:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service; **Fri** 12:20-3:45-7:30-10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Se;RPX; **Sun** 12:20-3:45-7:30-10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Se;RPX
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) 11:50, 7:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
LINCOLN (PG-13) 11:30, 3:10, 3:50, 7:00, 7:50, 10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
LORD OF THE RINGS MARATHON (NR) **Sat** 11:15. RPX
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: UN BALLO IN MASCHERA (NR) **Sat** 12:55
PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 12:30, 4:05, 7:15, 10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) 12:05, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS 3D (PG) 12:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) 12:15, 4:15, 7:35, 10:45. CC-Closed Captions
SKYFALL (PG-13) 12:00, 3:40, 7:20, 10:30, 10:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
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DAWN OF THE DEAD (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:00
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A LATE QUARTET (R) 4:45
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THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL (G) **Sat** 10:30
THE ROOM (R) **Fri** 12:00
TALK CINEMA SNEAK PREVIEW SERIES: QUARTET Sun 10:00. Quartet

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Route 93 off of Exit 6
FLIGHT (R) **Fri** 12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 9:45. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 11:30-3:15-6:45-9:45. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:30-3:15-6:45. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI (PG) **Fri** 1:00. Digital Presentation; **Sat** and **Sun** 1:15. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) **Fri** 4:15, 7:00, 10:00. RealD 3D; **Sat** 10:30-4:15-7:00-10:00. RealD 3D; **Sun** 10:30-4:15-7:00. RealD 3D
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) **Fri** 4:00, 10:30. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 11:00-4:00-10:30. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:00-4:00. Digital Presentation
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS 3D (PG) 1:30, 6:30. RealD 3D
SKYFALL (PG-13) **Fri** 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 9:00. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 12:30-4:00-7:15-9:00. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 12:30-4:00-7:15. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) **Fri** 1:45, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation; **Sat** 11:15-2:00-4:45-7:30-10:15. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:15-2:00-4:45-7:30. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) **Fri** 1:15, 7:00. Digital Presentation; **Sat** and **Sun** 1:45-7:00. Digital Presentation
WRECK-IT RALPH IN 3D (PG) **Fri** 4:30, 9:45. RealD 3D; **Sat** 10:45-4:30-9:45. RealD 3D; **Sun** 10:45-4:30. RealD 3D

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Burlington Cinema 10
888-AMC-4FUN
Across from Burlington Mall
ARGO (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:30, 3:30, 6:50, 10:50. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 12:30-3:30-6:50. Digital Presentation
FLIGHT (R) **Fri** 1:40, 4:50, 8:00, 11:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sat** 5:00-8:00-11:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:10-1:40-4:50-8:00. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI (PG) 2:00. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) **Fri** 5:10, 8:10, 11:00. RealD 3D; **Sat** 11:00-5:10-8:10-11:00. RealD 3D; **Sun** 11:00-5:10-8:10. RealD 3D
LINCOLN (PG-13) **Fri** 12:30, 2:30, 4:00, 6:10, 7:30, 9:10, 10:00. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 11:00-12:30-2:30-4:00-6:10-7:30-9:10-10:00. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:00-12:30-2:30-4:00-6:10-7:30. Digital Presentation
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: UN BALLO IN MASCHERA (NR) **Sat** 12:55
PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) **Fri** 12:20, 2:50, 5:30, 8:20, 9:40. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 10:00-12:10-2:50-5:30-8:20-9:40. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:00-12:10-2:50-5:30-8:20. Digital Presentation
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:40. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:00-12:40. Digital Presentation
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS 3D (PG) **Fri** 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 10:50. RealD 3D; **Sat** 10:15-3:10-5:50-8:30-10:50. RealD 3D; **Sun** 10:15-3:10-5:50-8:30. RealD 3D
SKYFALL (PG-13) **Fri** 1:20, 4:40, 7:50, 9:50. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 10:05-1:20-4:40-7:50-9:50. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:05-1:20-4:40-7:50. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) **Fri** 1:10, 4:20, 7:10, 11:00. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 10:30-1:10-4:20-7:10-11:00. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:30-1:10-4:20-7:10. Digital Presentation
WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) **Fri** 4:00, 10:55. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 10:50-4:00-10:55. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:50-4:00. Digital Presentation
WRECK-IT RALPH IN 3D (PG) 1:30, 6:30. RealD 3D

LANDMARK KENDALL SQUARE CINEMA
617-499-1996
1 Kendall Square, Cambridge
ANNA KARENINA (R) **Fri** 1:10, 2:15, 5:10, 8:15, 9:15; **Sat** and **Sun** 10:45-1:10-2:15-5:10-8:15-9:15.
DEADFALL (KIN) (R) **Fri** 1:30, 4:05, 6:55, 9:25; **Sat** and **Sun** 10:50-1:30-4:05-6:55-9:25.
THE FLAT (HA-DIRA) (NR) **Fri** 4:10, 6:50; **Sat** and **Sun** 10:35-4:10-6:50.
HITCHCOCK (PG-13) **Fri** 1:20, 3:45, 6:40, 9:35; **Sat** and **Sun** 10:40-1:20-3:45-6:40-9:35.
KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) **Fri** 1:15, 4:00, 7:10, 9:30; **Sat** and **Sun** 10:55-1:15-4:00-7:10-9:30.
LINCOLN (PG-13) **Fri** 1:00, 2:00, 3:15, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00; **Sat** and **Sun** 10:30-12:00-1:00-2:00-3:15-4:15-5:15-7:00-8:00-9:00.
THE WAITING ROOM (NR) **Fri** 1:25, 4:20, 6:45, 9:20; **Sat** and **Sun** 11:00-1:25-4:20-6:45-9:20.

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Chestnut Hill 5
888-AMC-4FUN
Route 9 Newton
ARGO (R) **Fri** 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:45. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 10:30-1:15-4:00-6:45-9:45. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 1:15-4:00-6:45. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI (PG) 4:15. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) **Fri** 1:15, 7:30, 10:15. RealD 3D; **Sat** 10:15-1:15-7:30-10:15. RealD 3D; **Sun** 1:15-7:30. RealD 3D
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) 2:00, 7:00. Digital Presentation
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS 3D (PG) **Fri** 4:30, 9:30. RealD 3D; **Sat** 11:45-4:30-9:30. RealD 3D; **Sun** 4:30. RealD 3D
SKYFALL (PG-13) **Fri** 1:00, 4:10, 7:15, 10:20. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 10:00-1:00-4:10-7:15-10:20. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 1:00-4:10-7:15. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) **Fri** 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:25. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 11:30-2:15-5:00-7:45-10:25. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 2:15-5:00-7:45. Digital Presentation

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Loews Liberty Tree Mall 20
888-AMC-4FUN
Exit 24 (Endicott St.) off Rt. 128
ARGO (R) 11:45, 2:45, 6:30, 9:30. Digital Presentation
THE COLLECTION (R) 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 7:15, 9:45. Digital Presentation
END OF WATCH (R) 10:30, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40. Digital Presentation
FLIGHT (R) 11:45, 3:00, 6:15, 9:45. Digital Presentation
HERE COMES THE BOOM (PG) 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:10. Digital Presentation
KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) 11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI (PG) 10:15, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:30. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:00, 2:05, 5:15, 8:20, 11:30. RealD 3D; **Sun** 11:00-2:05-5:15-8:20. RealD 3D
THE LORD OF THE RINGS TRILOGY (PG-13) **Sat** 10:00. Digital Presentation
PITCH PERFECT (PG-13) 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:40. Digital Presentation
PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 10:45, 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15. Digital Presentation
RED DAWN (PG-13) 11:30, 2:00, 4:40, 7:45, 10:20. Digital Projection
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:20. Digital Presentation
SKYFALL (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:45, 12:15, 2:30, 3:45, 6:00, 7:45, 9:30, 11:15. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:45-12:15-2:30-3:45-6:00-7:45-9:30. Digital Presentation
SKYFALL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 11:30, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30. Digital Presentation;IMAX
TAKEN 2 (PG-13) 11:45, 2:45, 5:10, 7:45, 10:30. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) **Fri** 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 12:00-1:00-3:00-4:00-6:00-7:00-9:00-10:00. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:00-12:00-1:00-2:00-3:00-4:00-5:00-6:00-7:00-8:00-9:00-10:00. Digital Presentation
WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) 10:30, 4:10, 10:10. Digital Presentation
WRECK-IT RALPH IN 3D (PG) 1:15, 7:10. RealD 3D

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Framingham 16
888-AMC-4FUN
22 Flutie Pass
ANNA KARENINA (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:45, 1:40, 4:40, 7:45, 10:40.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:45-1:40-4:40-7:35-10:30.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
ARGO (R) **Fri** 11:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:00, 10:50. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 8:00. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:00-1:50-4:45-7:35-10:20. Digital Presentation
END OF WATCH (R) **Fri** 1:10, 3:50, 6:40, 9:25. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 10:50. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 1:10-3:50-6:40-9:25. Digital Presentation
FLIGHT (R) 12:30, 3:45, 7:10, 10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) 11:45, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI (PG) 1:20. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:20, 4:20, 7:30, 10:35. RealD 3D; **Sun** 10:20-4:20-7:30-10:25. RealD 3D
LINCOLN (PG-13) 11:30, 3:00, 6:30, 9:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE LORD OF THE RINGS TRILOGY (PG-13) **Sat** 10:00. Digital Presentation
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: UN BALLO IN MASCHERA (NR) **Sat** 12:55
PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 10:40, 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00. Digital Presentation
RED DAWN (PG-13) 12:45, 3:10, 5:45, 8:10, 10:30. Digital Projection
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) 1:50, 7:15. Digital Presentation
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS 3D (PG) 11:15, 4:35, 9:40. RealD 3D
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:50, 1:45, 4:50, 7:50, 10:45. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:50-1:45-4:45-7:40-10:30. Digital Presentation
SKYFALL (PG-13) 11:10, 12:10, 2:30, 3:30, 6:00, 7:00, 9:20, 10:15. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) 11:00, 2:00, 4:45, 7:35, 10:25. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) 1:15, 6:45. Digital Presentation
WRECK-IT RALPH IN 3D (PG) 10:30, 4:00, 9:30. RealD 3D

SHOWCASE

Showcase Cinema de Lux Patriot Place
800-315-4000
24 Patroit Place, Foxboro
ARGO (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:40, 4:00, 6:55, 9:35, 12:05. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 12:40-4:00-6:55-9:35. DIGITAL PROJECTION
FLIGHT (R) 7:00, 10:10. DIGITAL PROJECTION
KIDTOONS: BARBIE: THE PRINCESS & THE POPSTAR (NR) **Sat** and **Sun** 12:00
KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:05, 2:35, 4:55, 7:25, 9:45, 12:00. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 12:05-2:35-4:55-7:25-9:45. DIGITAL PROJECTION
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:45, 3:35, 6:30, 9:30, 12:10. REAL D 3D; **Sun** 12:45-3:35-6:30-9:30. REAL D 3D
LINCOLN (PG-13) 11:40, 2:55, 6:10, 9:20. DIGITAL PROJECTION;Lux Level; 12:10-3:25-6:40-9:50. RWC IN DIGITAL PROJECTION; 11:40-2:55-6:10-9:20. DIGITAL PROJECTION; 12:10-3:25-6:40-9:50. Lux Level;RWC IN DIGITAL PROJECTION
LORD OF THE RINGS TRILOGY MARATHON (PG-13) **Sat** and **Sun** 11:00. FELLOWSHIP OF THE RINGS-TWO TOWERS-RETURN OF THE KING
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: UN BALLO IN MASCHERA (NR) **Sat** 12:55. LIVE HD;Lux Level; **Sat** 12:55. LIVE HD
PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) **Fri** 1:30, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00, 12:20. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sat** 1:45-4:10-7:05-10:00-12:20. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 1:45-4:10-7:05-10:00. DIGITAL PROJECTION
RED DAWN (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:55, 2:25, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40, 11:55. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 11:55-2:25-4:50-7:20-9:40. DIGITAL PROJECTION
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:45, 2:00, 4:15, 6:45, 9:00, 11:05. RWC/DVS IN DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 11:45-2:00-4:15-6:45-9:00. RWC/DVS IN DIGITAL PROJECTION
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS 3D (PG) 12:15, 2:30, 4:45. REAL D 3D
SKYFALL (PG-13) **Fri** 12:00, 1:05, 3:05, 4:35, 6:35, 7:40, 9:55, 11:00. PRESENTED IN SONY 4K DIGITAL; **Fri** 1:05-4:35-7:40. Lux Level;PRESENTED IN SONY 4K DIGITAL; **Sat** 7:40. Lux Level;PRESENTED IN SONY 4K DIGITAL; **Sat** 12:00-3:05-6:35-7:40-9:55-11:00. PRESENTED IN SONY 4K DIGITAL; **Sun** 1:05-4:35-7:40. Lux Level;PRESENTED IN SONY 4K DIGITAL; **Sun** 12:00-1:05-3:05-4:35-6:35-7:40-9:55. PRESENTED IN SONY 4K DIGITAL
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) **Fri** 12:20, 12:50, 3:30, 4:05, 6:25, 7:10, 9:15, 10:05, 11:45. DIGITAL PROJECTION; 12:50-4:05-7:10-10:05. DIGITAL PROJECTION;Lux Level; **Sat** and **Sun** 12:50-4:05-7:10-10:05. DIGITAL PROJECTION
WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:30, 1:55, 4:20, 6:50, 9:25, 11:50. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 11:30-1:55-4:20-6:50-9:25. DIGITAL PROJECTION

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Loews Methuen 20
888-AMC-4FUN
Rte. 213 between I-93 & I-495
ARGO (R) **Fri** 11:45, 2:45, 6:30, 9:30. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 11:45-6:30. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:45-2:45-6:30-9:30. Digital Presentation
THE COLLECTION (R) 11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30. Digital Presentation
END OF WATCH (R) 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45. Digital Presentation
FLIGHT (R) **Fri** 11:55, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 2:45-9:30. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:55-3:30-7:00-10:30. Digital Presentation
KHILADI 786 (NR) 11:45, 3:00, 6:45, 10:00.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI (PG) 1:45. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) 10:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15. RealD 3D
LINCOLN (PG-13) 11:45, 3:30, 7:15, 10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; 11:00-2:45-6:30-10:00. Digital Presentation
THE LORD OF THE RINGS TRILOGY (PG-13) **Sat** 10:00. Digital Presentation
PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15. Digital Presentation
RED DAWN (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:45, 1:15, 3:45, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:45-1:15-3:45-6:00-8:30-11:00. Digital Presentation
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS 3D (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:00-2:00-5:00-8:00-10:45. Digital Presentation
SKYFALL (PG-13) 10:45, 2:45, 6:15, 9:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
SKYFALL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 11:30, 3:15, 7:00, 10:30. Digital Presentation;IMAX
TALAASH (NR) 11:30, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15. Digital Presentation; **Fri** and **Sat** 11:15-2:15-5:15-8:15-11:00. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:15-2:15-5:15-8:15. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) 11:00, 4:40, 10:30. Digital Presentation
WRECK-IT RALPH IN 3D (PG) 1:45, 7:30. RealD 3D

SOMERVILLE THEATRE

Somerville Theatre
617-625-5700
55 Davis Square
ARGO (R) **Fri** 7:10, 9:45; **Sat** and **Sun** 3:40-7:10-9:45.
FLIGHT (R) **Fri** 6:45, 9:30; **Sat** and **Sun** 3:30-6:45-9:30.
THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER (PG-13) **Fri** 7:00, 9:40; **Sat** and **Sun** 3:20-7:00-9:40.
SKYFALL (PG-13) **Fri** 7:00, 9:50; **Sat** and **Sun** 3:30-7:00-9:50.

CAPITOL THEATRE

Capitol Theatre
781-648-4340
204 Massachusetts Avenue
CLOUD ATLAS (R) 7:00
LIFE OF PI (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 4:30, 10:00; **Sun** 4:30.
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) **Fri** 7:20; **Sat** and **Sun** 1:30-7:20.
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) **Fri** 4:45, 8:00; **Sat** and **Sun** 2:30-3:30-4:45-8:00.
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS 3D (PG) **Fri** 5:45, 10:00; **Sat** 1:10-5:45-10:00.; **Sun** 1:10-5:45.
THE SESSIONS (R) 7:40
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) **Fri** 5:00, 8:00; **Sat** and **Sun** 2:00-5:00-8:00.
WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) **Fri** 7:45; **Sat** and **Sun** 3:15-7:45.
WRECK-IT RALPH IN 3D (PG) **Fri** 5:30, 9:50; **Sat** 1:00-5:30-9:50.; **Sun** 1:00-5:30.

SHOWCASE

Showcase Cinema de Lux Revere
800-315-4000
565 Squire Road
ARGO (R) **Fri** 1:45, 4:35, 7:35, 10:30. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sat** 1:45-7:35-10:30. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 1:45-4:35-7:35-10:30. DIGITAL PROJECTION
THE COLLECTION (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:45, 1:50, 4:15, 6:30, 9:00, 11:10. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 11:45-1:50-4:15-6:30-9:00. DIGITAL PROJECTION
END OF WATCH (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 7:05, 10:25, 12:50. DIGITAL PORJECTION; **Sun** 7:05-10:25. DIGITAL PORJECTION
FLIGHT (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:40, 3:00, 6:10, 9:20, 12:20. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 11:40-3:00-6:10-9:20. DIGITAL PROJECTION
KIDTOONS: BARBIE: THE PRINCESS & THE POPSTAR (NR) **Sat** and **Sun** 12:00
KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:55, 2:20, 4:45, 7:40, 10:15, 12:40. RWC IN DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 11:55-2:20-4:45-7:40-10:15. RWC IN DIGITAL PROJECTION
LIFE OF PI (PG) **Fri** 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:45, 12:45. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sat** 12:50-3:50-4:35-6:50-9:45-12:45. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:45. DIGITAL PROJECTION
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:20, 3:20, 6:20, 9:15, 12:15. REAL D 3D; **Sun** 12:20-3:20-6:20-9:15. REAL D 3D
LINCOLN (PG-13) 12:05, 3:15, 6:40, 9:50. DIGITAL DIRECTOR'S HALL;Reserved Seating; 12:35-3:45-7:10-10:20. RWC IN DIGITAL PROJECTION
LORD OF THE RINGS TRILOGY MARATHON (PG-13) **Sat** and **Sun** 11:00. FELLOWSHIP OF THE RINGS-TWO TOWERS-RETURN OF THE KING
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: UN BALLO IN MASCHERA (NR) **Sat** 12:55. LIVE HD
PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG-13) 11:25, 2:15, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30. DIGITAL PROJECTION
RED DAWN (PG-13) **Fri** 1:00, 4:05, 6:55, 9:55, 12:35. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sat** 6:55-9:55-12:35. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 1:00-4:05-6:55-9:55. DIGITAL PROJECTION
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) **Fri** 11:00, 12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:00, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00, 12:20. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sat** 11:00-1:30-4:00-7:30-10:00-12:20. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 11:00-12:00-1:30-2:30-4:00-5:00-7:30-10:00. DIGITAL PROJECTION
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS 3D (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 11:50. REAL D 3D; **Sun** 11:30-2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30. REAL D 3D
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) 1:05, 3:55, 7:25, 10:40. DIGITAL PROJECTION
SKYFALL (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:20, 2:40, 6:05, 9:10, 12:25. DIRECTOR'S HALL PRESENTED IN SONY 4K DIGITAL;Reserved Seating; 11:50-3:10-6:35-9:40. PRESENTED IN SONY 4K DIGITAL; **Sun** 11:20-2:40-6:05-9:10. DIRECTOR'S HALL PRESENTED IN SONY 4K DIGITAL;Reserved Seating
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) 1:35, 4:25, 7:15, 10:05. DIGITAL DIRECTOR'S HALL;Reserved Seating; **Fri** 11:15-2:05-4:55-6:45-7:45-9:35-10:35-12:30. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sat** 6:45-9:35-12:30. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 6:45-9:35. DIGITAL PROJECTION
WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) **Fri** 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 10:10, 12:40. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sat** 2:10-4:40-7:20-10:10-12:40. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 2:10-4:40-7:20-10:10. DIGITAL PROJECTION
WRECK-IT RALPH IN 3D (PG) 11:05, 1:40, 4:10. REAL D 3D

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‘Keeps’ is tired but true

No one expects a rom-com to break the mold, and ‘Playing for Keeps’ certainly doesn’t do anything special But fans of the genre won’t care

‘Playing for Keeps’
Director: Gabriele Muccino
Cast: Gerard Butler, Jessica Biel, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Uma Thurman, Dennis Quaid
Rating: PG-13
Grade: ●●◐○○

For rom-com fans, “Playing for Keeps,” might feel like a case of deja vu. Like most movies of this genre, the storyline feels all too familiar, as do the stereotypical characters. The main problem with this film is the fact that it doesn’t succeed as a romance or a comedy. The script only has a few witty lines and just when the story builds to a climax, it lacks emotion and turns in a completely different direction.

The plot follows a retired soccer star (Butler) who is trying to get his life back on track when he is asked to coach his young son’s soccer team. Yet he soon becomes popular among the recently divorced or unhappily married moms, which disrupts his plans. The second half of “Playing for Keeps” is certainly more engaging than the first; you begin to invest yourself in the story and the characters, despite the predictable “twists.”

The film has a strong cast who have all been in their fair share of both good and bad romantic comedies — but the best performance comes from Biel, who plays a convincing mother trying to provide a good life for son while battling her nostalgic feelings for the past. Aside from its flaws, “Playing for Keeps” is an enjoyable popcorn flick that doesn’t try to be more than it is.

DALE ROBINETTE

▶ Jessica Biel, Noah Lomax and Gerard Butler star in “Playing for Keeps.”

OLIVIA MORROW
letters@metro.us

TAG
theater & arts guide

THEATER

THE CIRCUS HAS ARRIVED
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The rundown

SHOPPING

Craftboston Holiday 2012
Friday through Sunday
Cyclorama
Boston Center for the Arts
539 Tremont St., Boston
$15, 617-266-1810
www.societyofcrafts.org
This one's an annual highlight, whether you're in the market for some unique holiday gifts or you just want to check out the work of 90 artists and craftspeople. The sheer variety of media — baskets, ceramics, decorative fiber, art-to-wear, furniture, glass, jewelry, leather, etc. — makes this one of the more diverse art shows of any kind all year.

MUSIC

Shirim: Klezmer Nutcracker
Sunday, 4:30 p.m.
Club Passim
47 Palmer St., Cambridge
$13-$15, 617-492-7679
www.clubpassim.org
Yes, you read right — it's a klezmer version of Tchaikovsky's immortal Christmas work. In the wrong hands, this idea could descend into trite novelty, but Shirim's "Nutcracker" is far too clever — take a listen to "Dance of the Latkes Queens," which turns the "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies" into a slinky cabaret burlesque, and try not to smirk.

MOVIES

'Alice'

Saturday, 9 p.m.
Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St., Cambridge
$9, 617-495-4700
hcl.harvard.edu/hfa/
In his deeply weird, stop motion-laden take on Lewis Carroll's "Alice" books, Czech director Jan Svankmajer sought to depict a dream world where repressed feelings usurp reason, daring to tread where neither Disney nor even Tim Burton could handle. If you have no idea what's going on, that's kind of the point. Just relax and follow the white rabbit.

ART

'In Death Lamented: The Tradition of Anglo-American Mourning Jewelry'

Through Jan. 31
Mass. Historical Society
1154 Boylston St., Boston
Free, 617-536-1608
www.masshist.org
This exhibition features more than 80 examples of the long lost art of mourning jewelry, which was a trendy way to commemorate the dead during the 18th and 19th centuries. Some of the pieces contain intricately woven locks of the deceased's hair, which a modern mind is likely to find touching and/or spooky. Either way, the art on display here is definitely fascinating.

THEATER

'Dickens' A Christmas Carol Times Two!'
Saturday, 2 p.m.
Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston
$10, 617-482-6439
www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.com
This show, a benefit for the Old South Meeting House, includes holiday tunes by pianist Rev. Dr. Dianne Carpenter, a view of American history circa 1876 from a British perspective and a one-man performance of "A Christmas Carol" by actor Al LePage, who inhabits all 18 characters in body and mind in an adaptation derived from Dickens' scripts.

COMEDY

No Rest for the Wicked Funny
Friday through Saturday
Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston
$20, 617-263-6887
www.improvasylum.com
This annual 24-hour improv-a-thon benefits Globe Santa, for which it raised nearly $41,000 last year — and that's good, because it definitely does not benefit the circadian rhythms of its participants. Then again, these guys are so good they can do improv in their sleep — and they might just have to! OK, we'll leave the jokes to the pros from here.

READINGS

Louise Gluck
Friday, 7 p.m.
Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
Free, 617-661-1515
www.harvard.com
This Pulitzer Prize-winning poet will read from her new collection, "Poems 1962-2012." Gluck is known for her plain language and lucidity — not qualities that usually spring to mind when one thinks of poets, but she's deep enough that she doesn't need to beat around the bush. Reading one of her poems is easy — it's the contemplation that takes time. MATTHEW DINARO

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The feed ...

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Paris Jackson is rocking out to Queen, Samantha Ronson is keeping it real, Whitney Cummings is actually sending people to a Chick-fil-A and Mark Duplass is feeling pretty dumb.

@ParisJackson
that fantastic moment when Bohemian Rhapsody comes on the radio and you just blast it and rock out so hard you just forget all you problems

@samantharonson
If u start a tweet with- I'm not a hater, but- um- YOU'RE A HATER

@WhitneyCummings
Lizzy Caplan doesn't have Twitter, so go to her house to tell her she's awesome: 6750 Sunset Blvd., LA, CA 90028

@MarkDuplass
anybody know where i put my ability to spell words correctly? i swear, i just had it.

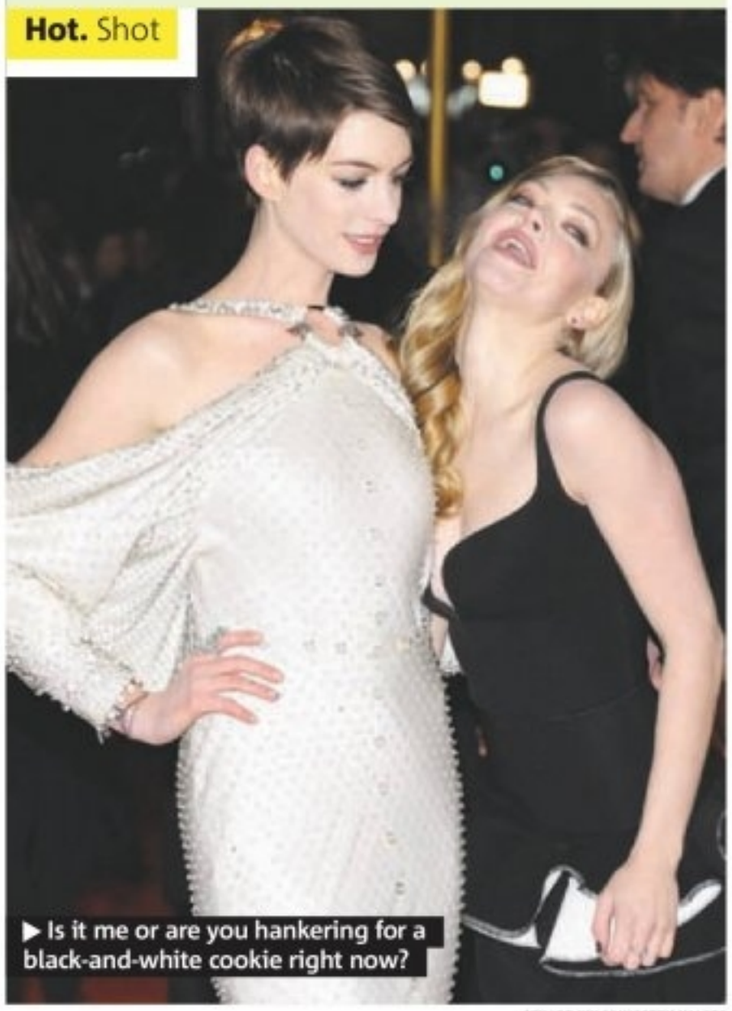
Samantha Ronson

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Sarah Jessica Parker and Naomi Watts open up about holidays with their kids

Hot. Shot



▶ Is it me or are you hankering for a black-and-white cookie right now?

STUART WILSON/GETTY IMAGES

Side-eye happenings at 'Les Mis'

Co-stars Anne Hathaway and Amanda Seyfried vamped it up on the red carpet at the "Les Miserables" world premiere on Wednesday in London.

Sarah Jessica Parker and **Naomi Watts** not only juggle A-list acting careers as well as their families, but they also somehow find the time to take advantage of New York City's many cultural opportunities (annoying, I know).

"We have incredible museums that are affordable and free; we have tons of wonderful ballet companies. I try to do all these things with my children. Simply walking up and down the streets of New York — there's art everywhere, there's things to talk about," Parker said Thursday night at the New 42 Gala, which honored the Australia Council for the Arts as well as supported the New Victory Education Program.

Naomi Watts — who was there with her children, **Sasha**, 5, and **Samuel**, 4, and partner **Liev Schreiber** — agrees. "We've done a few shows [with the kids]. It's a treat," she said.

But lest you think Parker and Watts are so perfect they only fill their children's heads with intellectual goodness, rest assured both women have fallen prey to holiday craziness.

"We're pretty conventional," said Parker about her holidays with her family, which includes husband, actor **Matthew Broderick**, son **James**, 10, and twin daughters **Marion** and **Tabitha**, 3. "We like to be together, we like to eat, we play Yankee Trader."

GETTY IMAGES

Watts and Parker on Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, it seems like the Schreiber/Watts household has fallen victim to the holiday terrorist that is Elf on the Shelf. (For those of you lucky enough not to know what he is, the Elf on the Shelf is a doll who allegedly spies on your kids at Christmastime and has to be moved night after night by the parents. It's great for about a hot minute.)

"I think they're getting into the whole Santa Claus thing now," Watts said about her little family. "They've got the Elf on the Shelf — and every night, he moves."

—With reporting by Olivia Morrow

Talking points

Swift and Styles are heating up

The fledgling romance between **Taylor Swift** and One Direction star **Harry Styles** appears to be heating up pretty quickly, if they're latest rendezvous are any indication. Styles was spotted trying to sneak into the New York City hotel where Swift is staying, an overnight bag over his shoulder, according to Hollyscoop. That's the second night in a row the young music stars have spent together at the hotel this week.

DeVito keeps us guessing with Perlman split

Despite announcing in October that they'd separated, **Danny DeVito** and **Rhea Perlman** aren't actually all that separated — at least according to DeVito. When asked by Extra how he's adjusting to life as a single man, DeVito says, "It's not something you adjust to. Rhea and I are really close. Actually still together, just separate, but together." In fact, DeVito insists divorce may not be in the cards for the "Cheers" alums. "We're working on it," he says when asked if a reconciliation might be on the way.

'Devastating' divorce for Lopez

Enough time has apparently passed for **Jennifer Lopez** to open up about the demise of her marriage to **Marc Anthony**. "I was going through a divorce and the breakup of a family, which was devastating to me because family means everything to me," Lopez tells Hollywood Life of the breakup in July 2011. "I didn't want to be the woman who stayed in bed for two months. I did do that a little, but I knew I had to get through it."

Is Midddleton's due date in July?

It's going to be a summer baby for **Kate Middleton**, according to Life & Style. "She's due in July, which is a month full of significance for **William**," a source says. "His mother, **Diana**, was born on July 1, and his parents got married on July 29." As for who the godparents will be for the new prince or princess? Signs are pointing to **Prince Harry** and **Pippa Middleton**, according to ABC News. "Kate is very close to her sister, Pippa, and William is infinitely, in the same way, close to Prince Harry. So they are the obvious choice," royal contributor **Victoria Arbiter Brown** says. "They were the best man and the chief bridesmaid at their wedding, they're well-trusted, they're family."

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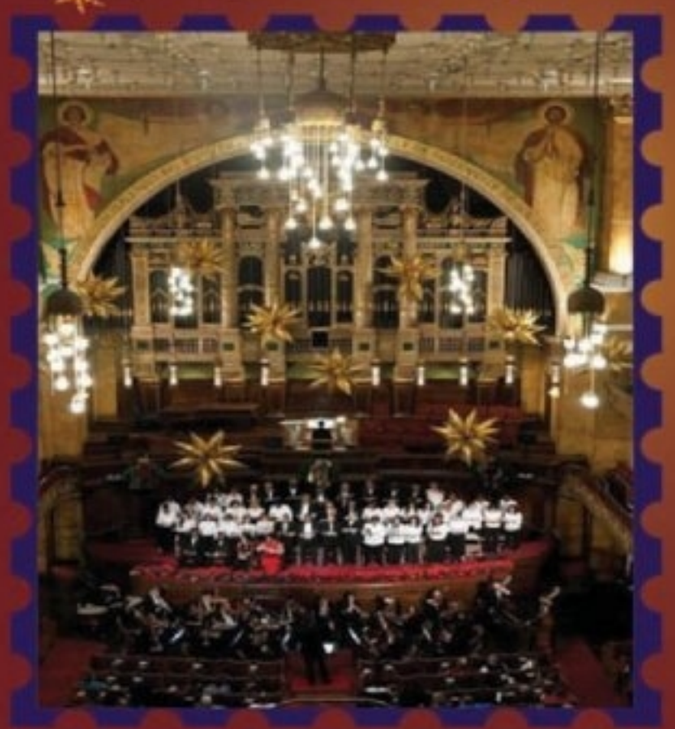

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Letters

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No good deed goes unpublished

RE: "FAMILY OF MAN HIT BY Q TRAIN MULLS LEGAL ACTION AFTER PHOTO" (METRO, DEC. 6) Amazing how the story of the week is about the bystander effect and no one helping the poor fellow who was pushed onto the tracks. The sad tragedy aside, how about the fact that people saving those that have fallen on the tracks isn't newsworthy. I jumped onto the tracks and rescued a drunken fellow who had stumbled onto the Grand Street station Brooklyn-bound tracks at 4 a.m. on Nov. 11. I helped him to the token clerk booth and the clerk would not even open his door to give me water to wash the man's blood from my hands as he called transit police. I, being shocked at what I had just done, got on the next train and went home. The next day it hit me and I was curious as to what happened to the gentleman I pulled from the tracks. No news report, no public accolades. Putting my life in danger resulted only in a story that was captured on my Facebook page. So for all these stories of New Yorkers dropping the ball, there are probably hundreds of heroic acts that go unreported.

ALFRED-CYRILLE CAZEAU, VIA E-MAIL

After the fatal subway shoving incident, I wondered why the MTA doesn't have posters: "What to do if you fall on tracks." Surely, amidst all the Jameson Irish Whiskey ads, something so practical might be helpful or save a life. However, it seems the MTA avoids doing this because there are no one-size-fits-all tips for someone who has landed on tracks.

DENNIS FRANCIS, VIA E-MAIL

No one misses the 'toxic' male traits

RE: "I'M A BOY, I'M A BOY! BUT SOCIETY WON'T LET ME ACT LIKE IT" (METRO, DEC. 5) What does letter writer Rob Donner mean by "acting like the males they were"? Too often such phrases have described anti-social behavior such as starting fights, driving recklessly and treating females like underlings. I don't consider myself obligated to act out those toxic aspects of the masculine mystique, and avoiding them didn't stop me from being a leader of boys (a Scout leader).

ALAN RICHARD BROWN, VIA E-MAIL

Oh, so the problem is that modern males aren't aggressive enough? Try telling that to the victims of Jovan Belcher, Robert Bales, James Holmes, Jared Lee Loughner and thousands of other angry, violent meatheads.

RICHARD FEINBERG, VIA E-MAIL

Symbols matter, but the debt must fall

Raising the top marginal tax rate to 39.5 percent is symbolic. Taxable income is line 43 (1040). If a taxpayer has $388,350 on line 43, he or she can afford an extra 4.6 percent.

However, the extra is NOT going to reduce deficit or the debt. The tax rate debate is "small-ball" politics as usual, on both sides. Democrats are pushing the "fairness" line. Republicans are pushing the government-taking-your-money mantra.

Yes, symbols matter — but serious people believe reducing deficit and the debt mattered more.

LARRY D. FOWLER, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Because you have an abundance of energy waiting to be channeled, you'll be willing to help others accomplish their projects or assignments without the slightest hesitation.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** You'll be exceptionally effective working on jobs initiated by another that can be speedily accomplished. Conversely, time-consuming projects will prove difficult.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Don't spend your time on insignificant situations or projects; go after something that is meaningful because, whether you know it or not, you're holding the winning cards.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Having direct involvement with another and collectively working on a constructive project can bring you a lot of satisfaction. If you can't do anything with a pal, do something for him.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Don't ignore some wise advice just because it comes from someone you don't like. If you do, your ego will be the cause of numerous problems.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Watch what you say when in a social setting, because there's someone among the group who is looking to use your words against you in hopes of tripping you up.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Steer clear of someone who makes you feel extremely uncomfortable. There is a perfectly good underlying reason why your instincts are telling you to avoid this person.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Make sure the objectives you establish for yourself are within the scope of possibility. If you attempt something that's unrealistic, you could get yourself into big trouble.

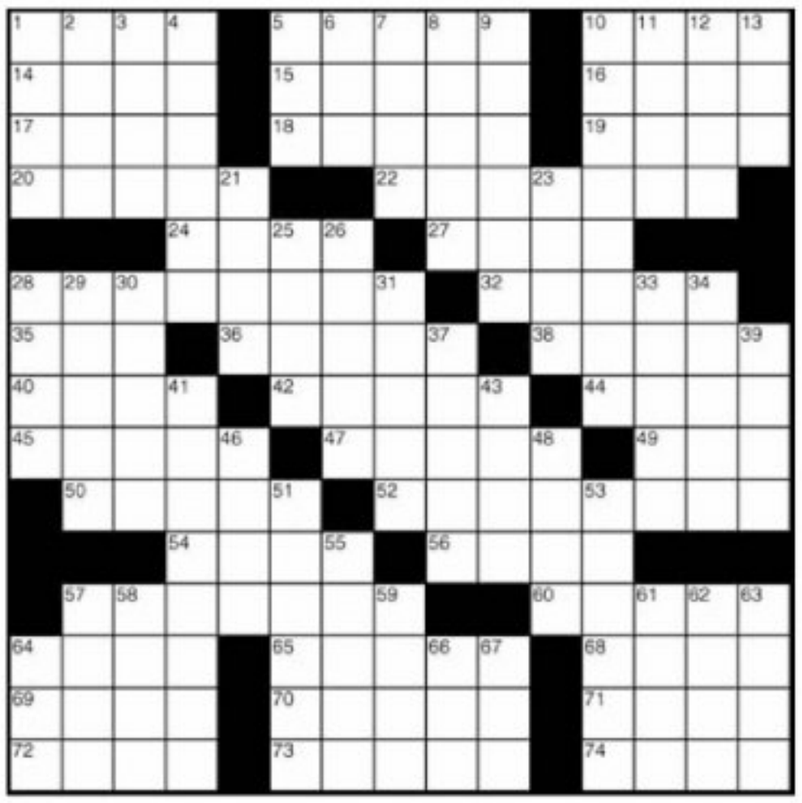
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Certain activities you find interesting may not be of equal attraction to your friends. If you attempt to add your picks to the agenda anyway, you'll lose your companions.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** You should do rather well when looking out for your interests, but the moment you try to manage things for others, you'll quickly lose steam.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** If there is something important that you hope to accomplish, go it alone. The participation of others could turn out to be more of a hindrance than help.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Today's aspects could be a bit wacky as far as you're concerned, inasmuch as you might benefit from what another initiates, but lose out on something that you set in motion.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL



Across
1 Deep-dish desserts
5 Crouch
10 Man-eating giant
14 Formerly, old-style
15 Workbench items
16 Fume
17 Ponytail site
18 Try for a job
19 Quitting time, for some
20 Salon tint
22 Drawer fresheners
24 Translucent gem
27 Avoid
28 Went downhill
32 Provide capital
35 Wool supplier
36 Trapshooting
38 Heredity factors
40 Isle of exile
42 Sheiks, usually
44 Actual
45 Bell tower sounds
47 Incline
49 Broad st.
50 Festoons
52 Got cozy
54 Hockey score
56 RR employee
57 Anklets, perhaps
60 Brazilian beat
64 Petty of "Free Willy"
65 Dorm climbers
68 Tiny bottle
69 D — — dog
70 Vice —
71 Peter Gunn's girl
72 Catch a fly ball
73 Fields
74 Lo-cal

Down
1 Phnom —, Cambodia
2 Latin hymn word
3 Sports channel
4 Office workers of yore
5 Depot (abbr.)
6 Go one better
7 Fumbler's word
8 Earthenware pots
9 Mind
10 Felon, e.g.
11 Perseverance
12 Steps on the gas
13 Riviera summer
21 Chest-beaters
23 Suspended
25 "Diana" singer
26 Lascivious looks
28 Ooze
29 Young screecher
30 Steel rod
31 Buys and sells
33 Ryan or Tatum
34 Make cloth
37 Steakhouse order (hyph.)
39 Husky's burden
41 Evening up
43 Like cotton candy
46 — Monster (Godzilla foe)
48 Poached items
51 Digestive fluid
53 Rock fragments
55 Pry bar
57 Nonsense
58 Libretto feature
59 Royal honorific
61 Calf-length
62 Worm, maybe
63 Ship's position
64 Vegas lead-in
66 NASA counterpart
67 Eur. airline

	5	7	2	1			9	3
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	4	9				2		
6	7			2	1	5	3	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

		6	7					
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7	4			8	5		1	
		2	9				7	3
4	3				8	1		
	8		4	6			2	5
9		4		1		7		
					3	6		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to Thursday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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Fantasy sports

ADAM LEVITAN
ALEVITAN@METRO.US

Somehow, the old saying "dance with the girl you brought" got tied into fantasy football.

It's strange because most people heavily involved in fantasy football don't know too much about girls, dancing or any combination of the two. It's also a poor strategy for roster management during crunch time.

The idea that we should start a certain player because he led us to this point is silly. Although this week has more importance, it's completely independent of prior weeks. We start our best option, which can be tricky to figure out:

Trending up

At this point in the season, strange things start to happen. Hurt players on bad teams sit out longer and coaches use the final four games to evaluate young talent. We need to get on board early with the **Bryce Brown** and **Danario Alexander** types. **Kenny Britt** and **Jared Cook** are prime candidates to take advantage of their situation. **Marcedes Lewis** is emerging in Jacksonville. **Pierre Garcon** is healthy and showing difference-making ability. Rams rookie **Chris Givens** is a player.

Trending down

We can't keep going back to guys that have gone in the tank. **Brandon Lloyd** hasn't topped 45 yards since Week 6. **Ryan Mathews** doesn't have his coach's trust. We can find tight ends more involved in their team's game plan than **Vernon Davis**. We don't have to dance with the big names.

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▶ Don't stick with Vernon Davis just because he's been your starting tight end all year

Garbage to gold

Points we accumulate in the fourth quarter of a blowout still count. And at this point in the season, we can safely project who will be in garbage time. Oakland quarterback **Carson Palmer** has rode this to 294.3 passing yards per game. **Chad Henne** is a legitimate option as the Jags abandon the run. The Chargers fall behind weekly. Adjust.

NFL news

New Ballard

Over the last six weeks, **Vick Ballard** has quietly gotten 14.6 touches per game. That number is about to go up. Donald Brown sprained his ankle last week and has already been ruled out of Week 14. Ballard has RB2 upside against the Titans this week.

NFL pickups

Alex Green

RB, Packers
James Starks is down again, this time with a knee injury. Green has proven to be a middling talent, but the workload will be there.

Tony Scheffler

TE, Lions
Thanks to the Ryan Broyles injury and Titus Young situation, Scheffler is now acting as the Lions' slot receiver. Major upside here.

Montell Owens

RB, Jaguars
Owens is really a fullback-type and special teams ace. But he'll carry the load Sunday with Rashad Jennings and Maurice Jones-Drew out.

The cold, hard football facts

A look at the NFL through the eyes of the stat experts at Coldhard football facts.com:

Baby-making music

All Tom Brady does is make babies and win football games. The Patriots host the 11-1 Texans on Monday night in the biggest game of the 2012 NFL regular season. The Patriots have won six straight games, and along the way Brady became the first quarterback in league history to win 100 games more than he's lost. Nobody is even close, not even the greatest quarterbacks ever. A look at the absurd difference:

Top 5 QBs' win-loss differential
1. T. Brady — 149-44 (+105)
2. J. Montana — 133-54 (+79)
3. P. Manning — 159-80 (+79)
4. B. Favre — 199-123 (+76)
5. J. Elway — 162-90 (+72)

FFChamps.com Fantasy Impact Player: Josh Freeman, QB, Tampa Bay — Freeman has launched two or more touchdown passes in seven of his last eight games. This week he will nuke a white flag-waving Philadelphia defense that has yielded 23 touchdowns through the air. Plus the young gun will have the home crowd fired up behind him. The Bucs are still in the playoff hunt at 6-6.

In the news

Happy returns

The Patriots will get two of their better players from both sides of the ball back on Monday night against the Texans as rookie defensive end Chandler Jones (above) and offensive line linchpin Logan Mankins are both expected to play, according to CSNNE.

Jones has been out of action since Nov. 18 with a right ankle injury, while Mankins hasn't been seen since Nov. 11 with calf and hip injuries.

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▶ Jacoby Ellsbury is rumored to yet again be on the trading block.

Holes to be filled

◗ MLB winter meetings in the books ◗ How the Red Sox may go about filling the rest of the roster ◗ Pitching, shortstop top the list of needs

Three ways Red Sox general manager Ben Cherington may fill out the rest of the roster:

1 ADD A STARTER
Pitching was arguably Boston's greatest downfall in 2012, so the Sox are likely to add at least one starting pitcher to their roster with the hopes of filling out their rotation. Some free agents still available are Ryan Dempster, Zack Greinke, Rich Harden, Carl Pavano, Kyle Lohse and Anibal Sanchez.

2 CONSIDER SHORTSTOP
Having signed Mike Napoli and Shane Victorino, the starting lineup is virtually set, with the exception of shortstop. As it stands now, Jose Iglesias would be the guy — but it's still unclear whether or not the organization believes he can be a full-time starting shortstop. Iglesias has an outstanding glove, but he struggles at the plate. In 83 big-league plate appearances over two seasons, he is hitting just .118. If the Red Sox were to look to sign another shortstop, all signs point to Stephen Drew — the younger brother of J.D. Drew. Stephen, 29, has spent seven years in the league and is a career .250 hitter.

3 DON'T TRADE ELLSBURY
Trading Jacoby Ellsbury would leave a major void at the leadoff spot and then force the team to add a starting right fielder, with Victorino moving to center. The team already has prospect Jackie Bradley Jr. in line to take over once Ellsbury likely leaves Boston following this season when his contact expires.

In a contract year Ellsbury should perform quite well, so the team should let the year play out and see what happens next offseason.

RYAN HANNABLE
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